

Family Health and AIDS / West and Central Africa Program (FHA/WCA)



Family Health and AIDS/West and Central Africa (WCA) includes the following countries:

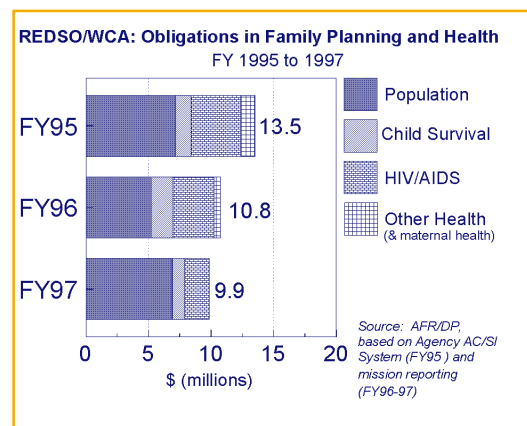
Priority Countries

Burkina Faso
Cameroon
Côte d'Ivoire
Togo

Associate Countries

Benin
Mali
Senegal

Family Health and AIDS / West and Central Africa (FHA/WCA) has operated since 1995 to provide a flexible mechanism to continue limited strategic support for key health and population activities in WCA in the context of USAID's reduced presence in the region. USAID funding trends for family planning and health activities conducted by FHA/WCA in 1995–97 are summarized in the figure to the right. With the closing of REDSO/WCA in 1998, FHA/WCA becomes an independent operating unit within USAID's Africa Bureau. Activities under FHA/WCA are primarily regional in scope with particular focus being directed toward four priority countries (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, and Togo) and three associate countries (Benin, Mali, and Senegal). FHA/WCA pursues the following strategic objective (SO):



Strategic Objective: Increased use of sustainable, regional, and selected RH, AIDS/STI, and CS interventions in West Africa.

IR 1: Increased access to and demand for quality RH, AIDS/STI, and CS interventions.

IR 2: Improved regional capacity for program development and implementation.

IR 3: Improved efficient use of regional resources.

(RH: reproductive health, AIDS: acquired immune deficiency syndrome, STI: sexually transmitted infections, CS: child survival)

FHA/WCA Activities in Family Planning and Health:

Strategic Partnering. FHA/WCA's implementation model reflects broad USAID ideals concerning partnership. Through strategic partnering with US and African partner organizations, FHA/WCA is able to diffuse the region's best family planning and health practices in an innovative regional model for the WCA region, advance US foreign policy and development assistance priorities in non-presence countries, and efficiently mobilize and leverage donor and African technical and financial resources for sustainable development. All activities have been developed in close coordination with other donors and implementing partners. FHA/WCA is implemented under a unified management team consisting of four U.S. private voluntary organization (PVO) partners, each responsible for one of four project components: service delivery, information/education/communication (IEC), training, and operations research (OR). The PVO partners, in consultation

with FHA/WCA, developed further complementary agreements with USAID's Global Bureau, with USAID field missions, and with various African institutions, including 10 that receive focused assistance for institutional development (see below for a list of FHA/WCA's regional and international partners).

Improving Access to and Demand for Quality Family Planning and Health Interventions. FHA/WCA is working to increase availability of contraceptives and child survival commodities in the WCA region through social marketing programs implemented by Population Services International (PSI) and regional partner organizations and through support for training to improve the management of contraceptive supply. Condom sales have dramatically increased in the five participating countries, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, and Togo. In the area of child survival, success in social marketing of oral rehydration salts (ORS) packets in Benin is serving as a model for replication elsewhere in the region, particularly Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Côte d'Ivoire. FHA/WCA has successfully leveraged significant additional support from other donors for commodity supply and logistics.

Integration is a consistent theme for FHA/WCA, particularly the need to integrate reproductive health into existing family planning and CS initiatives. The program's partners have worked with key actors from various participating countries to develop a plan of action to integrate reproductive health into medical and nursing school curricula.

Regional Capacity Building and Improved Use of Regional Resources. Institution-building efforts, operations research, and specific health interventions promoted by FHA/WCA are designed to strengthen capacity and resource management among regional partners in WCA. Examples include:

- a regional social marketing campaign to promote the use of ORASEL brand ORS packets;
- regional conferences, workshops, and exchanges for family planning and health care providers to improve IEC materials and social marketing programs;
- strengthening of regional training sites through support for operations research;
- updating clinical training curricula for STIs, adolescent health, and contraceptive technology;
- improvement of HIV/AIDS surveillance and creation of a regional network of institutions to address key infectious diseases; and
- health networks, modeled after USAID's successful regional efforts in East and southern Africa, designed to facilitate the development of expertise and exchange of information in key areas such as health care financing.

FHA/WCA Collaborating Partners

Main Implementing Partners:

Santé Familiale et Prévention du Sida (SFPS)
JHPIEGO
JHU/Population Communication Services
Population Services International
Tulane University

African Regional Partners:

Center for Reproductive Health Training and Research, Senegal
Center for Research and Development (CERPOD), Mali
Center for African Family Studies (CAFS), Togo
Center for Communications Research and Training (CERCOM), University of Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
National School of Statistics and Applied Economics (ENSEA)
Gynecology and Obstetrics Department, Le Dantec

US Private and Voluntary Organizations:

CARE International
AFRICARE

Other International Organizations:

French Cooperation
German Development Bank (KfW)
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
The World Bank
World Health Organization

Global Bureau Projects:

The BASICS Project
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Family Planning Logistics Management (FPLM)



This USAID Country Program Brief was prepared for the Human Resources Division, Office of Sustainable Development, USAID Africa Bureau (AFR/SD/HRD), by the Center for International Health Information (CIHI). Questions and comments can be directed to CIHI (info@cihi.com).